

FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY
July 6, 2020

As clergy and community leaders, we urge our city officials to reconsider hosting the Republican National Convention. Recent times have found municipalities across our country wrangling with life's most unimaginable phobias. Fears such as ethnic tension, economic uncertainty coupled with the first pandemic in a century have exponentially amplified the level of anxiety in our society. These occurrences affect Jacksonville.

There is grave concern that hosting the RNC signifies that our city is placing profits over people. Over a month ago, Governor Ron DeSantis ordered quarantines for the residents of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut upon entering Florida. New York and the surrounding states represented the epicenter of the Coronavirus two months ago. Six weeks later, these tri-states have returned the favor. Upon entering their states, Floridians must be quarantined upon entry due to our ascending numbers of those testing positive for COVID-19. Our concern is not hyperbole or embellishment, as evidenced in a recent letter written by 200 physicians decrying the medical irresponsibility of putting citizens at risk with such a lethal virus circulating in our city.

It is disingenuous to estimate that any convention would bring \$100 million to Jacksonville when the city is burgeoning more diseased each day. With the alarming, escalating numbers of COVID cases, more businesses are sure to close, be it temporarily or permanently. At this critical juncture of where we are as a city and a nation, dialogue, healing, and decency are essential to reconciliation. Incendiary rhetoric and bellicose speech are toxins that continue to rip away at the fabric of our democracy.

To have the President of the United States accept his party's nomination on August 27, "Ax Handle Saturday", which is one of the bloodiest days in our city's history is unthinkable! This will set our city back decades. As leaders of African American congregations along with the entire African American community, we urge our city officials to reconsider our city as the host city of the RNC for the safety of our city.

Pastor Arthur Jones, Sr. and Ardel Jones
All People International Church

Pastor Jeffrey Rumlin
Day Spring Church

Pastor Christopher McKee, Jr.
The Church of Oakland

Pastor John Allen Newman
The Sanctuary of Mt. Calvary Church

Pastor Eugene Diamond
Abyssinia Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor John E. Guns
St. Paul Church of Jacksonville

Pastor Helen D. Jackson
Prince Chapel A.M.E. Church

Pastors Leonard and Carolyn Love
One Church of Jacksonville

FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY

Page 2

July 6, 2020

Pastor Leofric Thomas
Open Arms Community Church

Pastor Landon Williams, Sr. and Brian Campbell
Greater Macedonia Baptist Church

Pastor Terry L. Hill, Jr.
The Citadel Church

Pastor Rudolph McKissick, Jr.
The Bethel Church

Pastor Kendall Anderson
Christian Fellowship Baptist Church

Pastor Jerry Thompson
First Chronicles Baptist Church

Pastor Randy Sewell
Solid Rock Baptist Church

Pastor Timothy Simmons
St. Andrews Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Burdette E. Williams
Greater New Jerusalem Baptist Church

Pastor Earnest Berrian
Light of the World Christian Church

Pastor Vaseal Montgomery
Allen Chapel Houston A.M.E. Church

Pastor Marva Mitchell
New Bethel Callahan A.M.E. Church

Pastor Pauline Tucker
New Allen Community A.M.E. Church

Pastor Mark Griffin
Wayman Temple A.M.E. Church

Pastor Tan Moss
Greater Grant A.M.E. Church

Pastor Gary L. Williams, Sr.
Hopewell Church

Pastor Karl Hodges
Central Baptist Church

Pastor Edward Weston
Exodus International Church

Pastor Elijah Simmons
Norwood Community Church

Pastor Kelvin Lewis
Purpose Church

Pastor Barry Townsend
Elevation Church

Pastor Mariko Billups
Breakthrough Church

Pastor Kennetta Carter
Roberts Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church

Pastor Leslie Washington
Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church

Pastor Oliver Simmons
St. Andrew A.M.E. Church

Pastor Sha'Reff Rashad
New Mt. Moriah A.M.E. Church

FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY

Page 3

July 6, 2020

Pastor D'Mrtri Burke, Associate Pastor
New Mt. Moriah A.M.E. Church

Pastor Louis Kirkland
Mother Midway A.M.E. Church

Pastor Reginald R. Chever
Deliverance Church of Our Lord

Pastor Diana Neal Mosley
United Tabernacle of Faith Baptist Church

Pastor Henry Phillips, Sr.
Life Without Limits

Pastor Mildred Watts
Living Word Ministries of Jacksonville

Pastor Jonathan Graham
The Covenant Church

Pastor Roderick S. Love, Sr.
New Dimensional Ministries

Pastor Fredrick D. Newbill
First Timothy Baptist Church

Pastor Ronald V. Walters
King Solomon United Baptist Church

Pastor Mattie Riley Hayes
New Hope A.M.E. Church

Pastors Frederic and Gloria Pickney
Joshua Christian Faith Center

Pastor Ray Cherry
United House in Prayer Ministries

Pastor Cynthia Bailey
Greater Allen A.M.E. Church

Pastor Mandella Smith
New Zion A.M.E. Church

Presiding Elder Eugene Moseley
South District, A.M.E. Church

Pastors Robert and Michele Watson
Refresh Ministries International

Pastor Nathaniel Senior
New Hope in Christ Church

Pastor Constance Brannon
By Faith Ministries

Pastor Annie Fields
Abundant Peace Ministries

Pastors Andrew and Karen Baker
Kingdom Builders of Faith

Pastor Alton Coles
Hurst Chapel A.M.E. Church

Pastor Deon Johnson
Antioch Church

Pastor Lewis Williams
Household of Faith

Pastor Enola Goodman
New Breed Creation Church

Pastor Dajuan Bell
Redeem Outreach Church

FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY

Page 4

July 6, 2020

Pastor Thomas Jordon
One Body Many Members Ministries

Presiding Elder Tony D. Hansberry
Suwannee-North District, A.M.E. Church

Pastor Ambrose Merkison
New Colossians Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Todney Bynes
Word of Life Empowerment Center

Pastor Diane Clark
Kingdom Life Ministries

Pastor Earl Huntley
Free Spirit Church

Pastor Alva D. Harris
Deliverance Temple Global Ministries

Pastor Victor Cole
Historic Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church

Presiding Elder Elizabeth Yates
Alachua-Central District, A.M.E. Church

Pastor Rose P. Baker
Love for Christ Outreach

Pastor Yvette Williams
Word of Faith Worship Center

Pastor A. C. Richardson
New Life Evangelistic Center, Inc.

Pastor Carol Baker
Kingdom Dominion Assembly

Pastor J. Solomon
Solomon's Porches Miracles

Pastor Roosevelt Gamble, III
Bethesda Temple Worship Center

Pastor William Wiggins
Emmanuel Baptist Church

Pastor Gregory Jones
Mt. Pisgah Starke A.M.E. Church

Pastor Bishop Edward Robinson, Sr.
Southside Church of God in Christ
Jurisdictional Prelate of the Florida
Central Second Ecclesiastical
Jurisdiction of the Church of God in
Christ